IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for use in a system comprising a host device and at least one peripheral device which are enabled to interact with each other, said method~~ comprising:

transmitting information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of ~~said~~ at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices from each of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices to [[said]] a host device; ~~and~~

combining said information from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

evaluating said combined information ~~in said host device said information indicative of a time required by said at least one peripheral device for an initialization~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicative of [[a]] said time required for [[an]] said initialization of said respective one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices is an information indicative of [[a]] said time required for [[an]] said initialization of said respective one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices at a maximum under regular circumstances.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices transmits said information to said host device upon a predetermined command received from said host device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said host device evaluates said combined information for adapting a polling frequency which is to be employed for polling at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices on whether said at least one peripheral device has completed [[an]] its respective initialization.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices is a memory card.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method is implemented in - a MultiMediaCard system ~~defined in the MultiMediaCard Association standard~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices transmits said information to said host device upon receipt of a CMD1 command from said host device~~, which CMD1 command is defined in said MultiMediaCard Association standard~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices retrieves said information from an operating condition register ~~(OCR)~~ of said at least one peripheral device, which operating condition register stores data ~~as defined in said MultiMediaCard Association standard~~ and in addition said information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least ~~one~~ two peripheral ~~device~~ devices transmits said information in an R3 response to said host device, which R3 response includes data ~~as defined in said MultiMediaCard Association standard~~ and in addition said information.

11. (Currently Amended) A host device comprising:

an interface ~~for interacting~~ configured to interact with at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices; and

a control component configured to receive ~~for receiving~~ from at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices via said interface an information indicative of a time required at a ~~said~~ respective one of said at least two ~~at least one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices for its respective ~~an~~ initialization, configured to combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization, and ~~for evaluating~~ configured to evaluate said combined information ~~a received information indicative of a time required at at least one peripheral device for an initialization~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A memory card ~~peripheral device~~ comprising:

an interface ~~for interacting~~ configured to interact with a host device;

a storing component ~~storing~~ configured to store information indicative of a time required at said memory card ~~peripheral device~~ for a respective initialization; and

a controlling component ~~for retrieving~~ configured to retrieve information indicative of [[a]] said time required at said memory card ~~peripheral device~~ for [[a]] said respective initialization from said storing component and for transmitting said information via said interface to [[a]] said host device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a host device and at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices,

each of said at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices including:

a first interface ~~for interacting~~ configured to interact with said host device;

a storing component ~~storing~~ configured to store information indicative of a time required at ~~said~~ a respective ~~at least one~~ peripheral device for a respective initialization; and

a controlling component ~~for retrieving~~ configured to retrieve information indicative of [[a]] said time required at said respective ~~at least one~~ peripheral device for [[a]] said respective initialization from said storing component and ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit said information via said first interface to said host device;

and said host device including:

a second interface ~~for interacting~~ configured to interact with said at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices; and

a control component ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive from said at least two ~~one~~ peripheral ~~device~~ devices via said second interface [[an]] said information indicative of [[a]] said time required at said respective ~~at least one~~ peripheral device for its respective [[an]] initialization, configured to combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization, and ~~for evaluating~~ configured to evaluate said combined information ~~a received information indicative of a time required at said at least one peripheral device for an initialization~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A software program product in which a software code for use in a system comprising a host device and at least one peripheral device which are enabled to interact with each other is stored, said software code realizing the following steps when running in a processing unit of said host device:~~ A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor, wherein said computer program code comprises instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving information from a respective one of at least two peripheral devices indicative of a respective time required by said ~~at least~~ respective one peripheral device for an initialization; ~~and~~

combining said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

evaluating said combined information ~~indicative of a time required by said at least one peripheral device for an initialization~~.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A software program product in which a software code for use in a system comprising a host device and at least one peripheral device which are enabled to interact with each other is stored, said software code realizing the following steps when running in a processing unit of a peripheral device of said system:~~ A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor, wherein said computer program code comprises instructions for performing a method comprising:

retrieving information indicative of a time required for an initialization of ~~said~~ a memory card ~~peripheral device~~ from a storage component; and

causing a transmission of information indicative of a time required for an initialization of said memory card ~~peripheral device~~ to ~~said~~ a host device.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein transmitting information indicative of said time required for an initialization of a respective one of said at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to said host device is performed in an open drain mode of said host device.

17. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a control module configured to combine information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

a component module configured to evaluate said combined information.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

a module configured to provide a predetermined command for transmission to at least one of said at least two peripheral devices.

19. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for combining information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

means for evaluating said combined information.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

means for providing a predetermined command for transmission to at least one of said at least two peripheral devices